

The  
**THE BOOK OF ESTHER**      **ESTHER 1**

*The feast of King Ahasuerus;*

*Vashti refuses to dance before them*

**CHAPTER 1**

1 And it was in the days of Ahasuerus (this *is* Ahasuerus who reigned from India even to Ethiopia over a hundred and twenty-seven provinces).

2 In those days when King Ahasuerus sat on the throne of his kingdom, which *was* in Shushan, the palace,

3 In the third year of his reign, he made a feast to all his chief rulers and his servants; the resources of Persia and Media, the first rulers and chief rulers of the provinces *were* before his face.

4 When he showed the riches of his heavy glorious kingdom and the heavy honor of the greatness of his ornamentation many days, a hundred and eighty days,

5 And when these days were fulfilled, the king made a feast to all the people who were present in Shushan, the palace, both to *the* great and small, seven days in the court of the garden of the king's palace;

6 *Where were* white linen, green, and blue, fastened with cords of fine cotton and purple to silver rings, and columns of marble; the beds were of gold and silver upon a pavement of artificial white marble, and bleached, and mother of pearl, and black marble.

7 And they gave them drink in vessels of gold (vessels, diverse vessels), and royal wine in abundance, according to the hand of the king.

8 And the drinking was according to the royal decree; none insisted, because thus the king had appointed to all the great ones of his house that they should do according to his pleasure, man by man.

9 Also Vashti, the queen, made a feast for the women in the royal house which *was* to King Ahasuerus.

10 On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was good with wine, he said to Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, and Abagtha, Zethar, and Carcas, the seven eunuchs who served before the face of Ahasuerus, the king,

11 To bring Vashti, the queen, before the face of the king with the royal crown to show the people and the princes her beauty, because she *was* good in appearance.

12 And Queen Vashti refused to come at the king's word by his eunuchs, and the king burst out in rage exceedingly, and his anger burned in him.

13 And the king said to the wise men who knew the times (because thus *was* the king's word facing all who knew royal decree and judgment;

14 And next to him *was* Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, and Memucan, the seven chief rulers of Persia and Media, who saw the king's face and who sat first in the kingdom),

**ESTHER 2** *The problem of Vashti's refusal; a royal decree of male dominance, select a new queen*

15 What shall we do to Queen Vashti according to royal decree, because she has not done the edict of King Ahasuerus by the eunuchs?

16 And Memucan said before the face of the king and the chief rulers, Vashti, the queen, has not only bent away from the king, but from all the chief rulers, and from all the people who are in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus,

17 Because word about the queen will go out to all women, so that they will despise their husbands in their eyes when it shall be said, King Ahasuerus said to Vashti, the queen, to come in before his face, and she did not come.

18 This day the chief ladies of Persia and Media who have attentively heard word of the queen will say to all the king's chief rulers, Enough! *There will be* contempt and rage!

19 If it is good to the king, cause a royal word to go out from before his face, and cause it to be written among the royal decrees of the Persians and the Medes, and let it not be crossed over that Vashti not come before the face of King Ahasuerus; and let the king give her dominion to another female associate better than she.

20 And the king's judicial sentence will be attentively heard, which he shall make throughout all his empire (because it *is* great), and all the wives shall give heavy honor to their husbands, from *the* great even to *the* small.

21 And the word was good in the eyes of the king and the chief rulers, and the king did according

to the word of Memucan;

22 And he sent writings into all the king's provinces, into province by province according to its writing, and to people and people after their tongue, that every man was to exercise dominion in his own house, and that it should be spoken in the tongue of every people.

## CHAPTER 2

1 After these words, when the wrath of King Ahasuerus subsided, he remembered Vashti, and what she had done, and what was cut out against her.

2 And the king's servants who ministered to him said, Let there be sought for the king young virgins good in appearance,

3 And let the king cause visitors to visit in all the provinces of his kingdom, that they may gather together all the young virgins, good in appearance, to Shushan, the palace, to the house of the women, into the hand of Hegai, the king's eunuch, the one hedging about the women, and let *them* be given soaps, and perfumes for their bath;

4 And let the girl who is good in the eyes of the king ascend the throne in place of Vashti. And it was a good word in the eyes of the king, and he did so.

5 There was in Shushan, the palace, a man, a Jew, and his name *was* Mordecai, the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, a Benjamite,

6 Who was transported as a stripped captive from Jerusalem with the captivity which had been transported as stripped captives

with Jeconiah, king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, had transported as stripped captives.

7 And he was the one to whom Hadassah was entrusted; she *was* Esther, his uncle's daughter, because to her *was* not father or mother, and the girl *was* beautiful in form and good in appearance; and her father and mother were dead, whom Mordecai took for his own daughter.

8 And it was, the king's word and his royal decree were attentively heard, and many girls were gathered together to Shushan, the palace, into the hand of Hegai; and Esther was taken to the king's house, into the hand of Hegai, the one who hedged about the women.

9 And the girl was good in his eyes, and she lifted mercy before his face; and he trembled as he gave her, her soaps, and perfumes with her specified portions, and seven maids, seen,<sup>9</sup> to be given her, out of the king's house; and he changed her and her maids to the best place in the house of the women.

10 Esther had not caused her people and her lineage to stand out boldly, because Mordecai had commanded upon her that she should not cause *it* to stand out boldly.

---

<sup>9</sup> 2:9 **seen**, *raah*, the regular word for see. Apparently what is meant by seen in this sentence is that the seven maids given to attend Esther had been chosen by someone's seeing them, and choosing them for their beauty as appropriate for this position.

11 And each day by day Mordecai walked before the face of the court of the women's house to know the peace of Esther and what should be done to her.

12 And when the order of succession for girl by girl to go to King Ahasuerus was touched, she was at the end, according to the royal decree of women, of twelve new moons (because so were the days of their being massaged with cleansing perfumes fulfilled - six new moons with oil of myrrh, and six new moons with oil of balsam, and washing of the women),

13 And this girl came to the king; whatever she said was given her to go with her out of the house of the women to the king's house.

14 In the dusk she went, and in the dawn she returned into the second house of the women, into the hand of Shaashgaz, the king's eunuch, who hedged about the concubines; she did not come to the king again unless the king was inclined to her, and she was called by name.

15 And when the order of succession for Esther was touched, the daughter of Abihail, the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her for his daughter, to go to the king, she sought no word, but what Hegai, the king's eunuch, the one who hedged about the women, said. And to Esther was grace in the eyes of all who saw her.

16 And Esther was taken to King Ahasuerus into his royal house in the tenth new moon, that *is* the new moon, Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign.

**ESTHER 3** *Esther crowned queen; Mordecai saves the life of the king; Haman exalted*

17 And the king loved Esther above all the women, and she lifted grace and mercy before his face more than all the virgins; and he put the royal crown upon her head, and she ascended the throne in the place of Vashti.

18 And the king made a great feast to all his chief rulers and his servants, Esther's feast, and he made a rest<sup>18</sup> to the provinces, and gave gifts according to the hand of the king.

19 And when the virgins were gathered together the second *time*, and Mordecai sat in the king's gate,<sup>19</sup>

20 Esther had not yet caused her lineage and her people to stand out boldly, what Mordecai had commanded her, and Esther did the edict of Mordecai, as when she was brought up by him.

21 In those days while Mordecai sat in the king's gate, two of the king's eunuchs, Bigthana and Teresh, of those who hedged about the vestibule, burst out in rage, and sought to lay hand on King Ahasuerus.

22 And the word was known to Mordecai who caused it to stand out boldly to Esther, the queen, and Esther said it to the king in Mordecai's name.

---

<sup>18</sup> **2:18 rest**, *hanachah*, which means a rest from responsibilities. It may have been a time of rest from work. The Septuagint understood it to mean a time of rest from taxation.

<sup>19</sup> **2:19 sat in the king's gate**, means to be an official in the administration of the king, because all public government business was conducted in the gate. The gate of the city was the official place of government decisions dealing with the people.

23 And when search was made of the word, it was found out; therefore they were both hanged<sup>23</sup> on a tree, and it was written in the book of the words of the days before the face of the king.

**CHAPTER 3**

1 After these words King Ahasuerus made Haman, the son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, great, and lifted him, and put his throne over all the chief rulers who *were* with him.

2 And all the king's servants who *were* in the king's gate bent their knees and prostrated themselves to Haman; the king had so commanded concerning him. And Mordecai did not bend his knees and he did not prostrate himself to him.

3 And the king's servants, who *were* in the king's gate, said to Mordecai, Why do you cross over the king's command?

4 And it was, they said it to him day by day, and he did not attentively hear them, and they caused it to stand out boldly to Haman to see whether Mordecai's words would stand because he had caused it to stand out boldly to them that he *was* a Jew.

5 And Haman saw that Mordecai did not bend his knees, and did not prostrate himself to him, and Haman was full of wrath.

6 And it was nothing in his eyes to send out his hands against Mordecai only, because they had

---

<sup>23</sup> **2:23 hanged on a tree**, *talah ets*, hanged on a tree in crucifixion, not with a rope around the neck.

*Haman deceives the king into signing a decree to execute all Jews; Mordecai in sackcloth* **ESTHER 4**

caused the people of Mordecai to stand out boldly to him, and Haman sought to desolate all the Jews, the people of Mordecai, who *were* throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus.

7 In the first new moon, that *is* the new moon Nisan, in the twelfth year of King Ahasuerus, they let fall Pur, that *is*, the lot, before the face of Haman from day to day, and from new moon to new moon, to the twelfth, that *is* the new moon Adar.

8 And Haman said to king Ahasuerus, There exists one people scattered and separate among the people in all the provinces of your kingdom, and their royal decrees are diverse from all people; and they do not do the king's royal decrees; and it does not level out for the king to leave them.

9 If it is good to the king, let it be written that they may be caused to be lost, and I will weigh out ten thousand talents of silver into the hands of those who do the work to bring it into the king's treasuries.

10 And the king took off his signet ring from his hand, and gave it to Haman, the son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the one who oppressed the Jews.

11 And the king said to Haman, The silver is given to you, and the people, to do with them as it is good in your eyes.

12 And the king's scribes were called on the thirteenth day of the first new moon, and there was written according to all that Haman had commanded to the

king's provincial governors, even to the governors who *were* over province by province, and to the chief rulers of people by people, province by province, according to its writing, and to people by people in their tongue; it was written, and sealed with the king's signet ring in the name of king Ahasuerus.

13 And the writings were sent by the hand of runners into all the king's provinces, to desolate *them*, to strike fatally, and to cause all Jews to be lost, both young, and old, little children, and women, in one day, upon the thirteenth of the twelfth new moon, which *is* the new moon, Adar, and to plunder their spoil.

14 The transcript of the writing to be given as a royal decree in all, province by province, was revealed to all people, that they should be prepared against that day.

15 The runners went out, urged on by the king's word, and the royal decree was given in Shushan, the palace. And the king and Haman sat down to drink, but the city Shushan was perplexed.

#### CHAPTER 4

1 And Mordecai knew by seeing all that was done, and Mordecai tore his clothes, and put on sackcloth with ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and screamed a great and a bitter cry;

2 And came as far as before the face of the king's gate, because none might enter into the king's gate in a garment of sackcloth.

**ESTHER 4** *Mordecai appeals to Esther to intercede to the king; she agrees, asking for prayers*

3 And in all, province by province, wherever the king's word and his royal decree touched *there* was great mourning among the Jews, and fasting, and weeping, and wailing, and many lay in sackcloth and ashes.

4 And Esther's maids and her eunuchs came, and caused it to stand out boldly to her. And the queen twisted *in anguish* exceedingly, and she sent garments to clothe Mordecai, and to take away his sackcloth from him, and he did not receive *them*.

5 And Esther called for Hatach of the eunuchs of the king, whom he stood before her face, and commanded him concerning Mordecai to know by seeing why this and why that.

6 And Hatach went out to Mordecai into the street of the city, who *was* before the face of the king's gate.

7 And Mordecai caused to stand out boldly to him all that had happened to him, and of the distinct declaration of the silver that Haman had said to weigh out to the king's treasuries for the Jews to cause them to be lost.

8 And he gave him the transcript of the writing of the royal decree that was given at Shushan to desolate them, to let Esther see *it*, and to cause *it* to stand out boldly to her, and to command upon her that she should go in to the king, to stoop down to him asking for grace, and to seek out *grace* before his face for her people.

9 And Hatach came, and caused to stand out boldly to Esther the words of Mordecai.

10 Again Esther said to Hatach, and commanded him to Mordecai,

11 All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that all, man and woman, who shall come into the king into the inner court who is not called, his one royal decree *is* to put him to death, separate from those to whom the king shall hold out the golden scepter, and he may live; and I have not been called to come in to the king these thirty days.

12 And they caused Esther's words to stand out boldly to Mordecai.

13 And Mordecai said to return to Esther, Do not make comparison within your soul that you shall escape in the king's house more than all the Jews,

14 Because if, devising in silence, you devise in silence at this time, room to breathe freely and deliverance shall stand up to the Jews from another place; and you and your father's house shall be lost; and who knows if you have laid your hand upon the kingdom for such a time as this?

15 And Esther said to them to return to Mordecai,

16 Walk, gather together all the Jews who are in Shushan, and fast for me, and do not eat, and do not drink three days, night, and day; also, I and my maids will fast likewise; and so I will go in to the king, which is not according to the royal decree; and if I am lost, I am lost.

*Esther asks the king and Haman to come to her banquet; Haman exults to his family* **ESTHER 5**

17 And Mordecai crossed on, and did according to all that Esther had commanded him.

## CHAPTER 5

1 And it was on the third day, that Esther put on royalty, and stood in the inner court of the king's house in front of the king's house, and the king sat upon his royal throne in the royal house in front of the gate of the house.

2 And it was, when the king saw Esther, the queen, standing in the court, she lifted grace in his eyes, and the king held out to Esther the golden scepter that *was* in his hand; and Esther drew near, and laid her hand on the head of the scepter.

3 And the king said to her, What *will* you, queen Esther? And what is your petition? To the half of the kingdom shall be given you.

4 And Esther said, If it *is* good to the king, let the king, and Haman come today to the banquet that I have made for him.

5 And the king said, Cause Haman to flow as liquid, that he may do the word of Esther. And the king and Haman came to the banquet that Esther had made.

6 And the king said to Esther at the banquet of wine, What is your request? And it shall be given you. And what is your petition? To the half of the kingdom it shall be done.

7 And Esther answered, and said, My request and my petition *is*:

8 If to me *there is* grace in the eyes of the king, and if it is good to the king to give my request, and

to do my petition, let the king and Haman come to the banquet that I shall make for them, and I will do tomorrow the word of the king.

9 And Haman went out that day joyful and good of heart, and Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate; and he did not rise up, and did not tremble of him, and Haman was filled with anger against Mordecai.

10 And Haman restrained himself, and he came to his house; and he sent, and called for those he loved, and Zeresh, his wife.

11 And Haman tallied up to them the heavy glory of his riches, and the multitude of his children, and all in which the king had made him great, and how he had lifted him above the chief rulers and servants of the king.

12 And Haman said, Yes, Esther, the queen, brought in no one with the king to the banquet that she had done but myself; and tomorrow I am called to her also with the king.

13 And all this levels out nothing to me the whole time that I see Mordecai, the Jew, sitting at the king's gate.

14 And Zeresh, his wife, and all those who loved him said to him, Let timber be made of fifty cubits high, and tomorrow you say to the king that Mordecai should be hanged upon it; then you go in joyfully with the king to the banquet. And the word was good before the face of Haman, and he caused the timber to be made.

**CHAPTER 6**

1 In that night sleep was driven from the king, and he said to bring the book of records of the words of the days, and they were called out before the face of the king.

2 And it was found written, that Mordecai had caused it to stand out boldly concerning Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs who hedged about the door, who sought to send out their hand against King Ahasuerus.

3 And the king said, What heavy honor and greatness has been done to Mordecai for this? And the king's servants who ministered to him said, Not a word has been done for him.

4 And the king said, Who *is* in the court? And Haman had come into the outer court of the king's house to say to the king to hang Mordecai on the timber that he had set up for him.

5 And the king's servants said to him, Behold, Haman is standing in the court. And the king said, Let him come in.

6 And Haman came in. And the king said to him, What shall be done to the man for whom the king is inclined to do heavy honor? And Haman said in his heart, To whom would the king be inclined to do heavy honor more than to myself?

7 And Haman said to the king, The man to whom the king is inclined to do heavy honor:

8 Let the royal apparel be brought which the king wears, and the horse that the king rides, and

the royal crown which is given upon his head,

9 And let the apparel and the horse be given into the hand of a man of the king's grandest chief rulers, and that they clothe the man to whom the king is inclined to do heavy honor, and cause him to ride upon the horse through the street of the city, and call out before his face: Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king is inclined to do heavy honor.

10 And the king said to Haman, Flow like liquid; take the apparel, and the horse, what you have spoken, and do so to Mordecai, the Jew, who sits at the king's gate; do not let a word fall of all that you have spoken.

11 And Haman took the apparel and the horse, and clothed Mordecai, and caused him to ride through the street of the city, and called out before his face: Thus shall it be done to the man to whom the king is inclined to do heavy honor.

12 And Mordecai returned to the king's gate. And Haman hastened to his house mourning and having his head covered.

13 And Haman tallied up to Zeresh, his wife, and all his loved ones all that had happened to him. And his wise men and Zeresh, his wife, said to him, If Mordecai *is* of the seed of the Jews, before whose face you have begun to fall, you shall not be able against him, because, falling, you shall fall before his face.

14 They continued speaking with him, and the king's eunuchs arrived, and Haman trembling was



*Esther reveals Haman's plot, and he is hanged on the timber he set up to hang Mordecai* **ESTHER 8**  
brought to the banquet that Esther had made.

### CHAPTER 7

1 And the king and Haman came to banquet with Esther, the queen.

2 And the king said to Esther also on the second day at the banquet of wine, What *is* your request, Queen Esther? And it shall be given you. And what *is* your petition? And to the half of the kingdom it shall be done.

3 And Esther, the queen, answered and said, If there is grace toward me in your eyes, Oh king, and if it is good to the king, let be given to me my soul at my request, and my people at my petition!

4 Because we are sold, I and my people, to be desolated, to be struck fatally, and to be lost. And if we had been sold for menservants and maidservants I would have devised in silence, because the oppressor could not level out the king's damage.

5 And King Ahasuerus said, and said to Esther, the queen - Who *is* he that, and where *is* he that, has filled his heart to do so?

6 And Esther said, The oppressing man and the one hating is this evil Haman. And Haman feared before the face of the king and the queen.

7 And the king rose from the banquet of wine into the palace garden in his wrath, and Haman stood to seek for his soul to Esther, the queen, because he saw that evil was finished toward him by the

king.

8 And the king returned out of the palace garden into the house of the banquet of wine, and Haman had fallen upon the bed on which Esther was. And the king said, Will he also tread down the queen with me in the house? The word went out of the king's mouth. They covered Haman's face.

9 And Harbonah, one of the eunuchs, said before the face of the king, Behold also, the timber fifty cubits high which Haman had made for Mordecai, who had spoken good for the king, stands at the house of Haman. And the king said, Hang him on it!

10 And they hanged Haman on the timber that he had set up for Mordecai. And the king's wrath subsided.

### CHAPTER 8

1 On that day King Ahasuerus gave the house of Haman, the Jews' oppressor, to Esther, the queen. And Mordecai came before the face of the king, because Esther had caused to stand out boldly who he *was* to her.

2 And the king took off his seal, which he had crossed over from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai. And Esther put Mordecai over the house of Haman.

3 And again Esther spoke before the face of the king, and fell down before his face at his feet, and with tears stooped down asking for grace from him to cross over the evil of Haman, the Agagite, and his device that he had calculated against the Jews.

**ESTHER 8** *The king orders that all Jews have the right to defend themselves against all attackers*

4 And the king held out the golden scepter to Esther, and Esther rose, and stood before the face of the king,

5 And said, If to the king it is good, and if there is grace toward me before his face, and the word *is* right before the face of the king, and I am good in his eyes, let it be written to turn back the writings devised by Haman, the son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, which he wrote to cause the Jews who *are* in all the king's provinces to be lost,

6 Because how am I able to see the evil that shall be to my people? And how am I able to see the destruction of my kindred?

7 And King Ahasuerus said to Esther, the queen, and to Mordecai, the Jew, Behold, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and they have hanged him upon the timber, because he sent out his hand upon the Jews.

8 And you write concerning the Jews what is good in your eyes in the king's name, and seal it with the king's signet ring, because the writing which is written in the king's name, and sealed with the king's signet ring, none may turn it back.

9 And the king's scribes were called at that time in the third new moon, that *is* the new moon, Sivan, on the twenty-third, and it was written according to all that Mordecai commanded to the Jews, and to the provincial governors, and the governors of smaller districts, and chief rulers of the provinces which *are* from India to Ethiopia, a hundred and twenty-seven prov-

inces, written province by province, and people by people in their tongue, and written to the Jews in their tongue.

10 And he wrote in the name of King Ahasuerus, and sealed it with the king's signet ring, and sent writings by the hand of runners on horses, and riders on relay animals, mules, sons of brood mares,

11 In which the king gave the Jews which were in every city by city to gather themselves together, and stand for their souls, to desolate, to strike fatally, and to cause to be lost, all the resources of people and province who would press upon them, little ones and women, and to take their spoil to plunder,

12 Upon one day in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, upon the thirteenth of the twelfth new moon, that *is* the new moon, Adar.

13 The transcript of the writing of the royal decree given in the whole, province by province, was revealed to all people, and that the Jews should be prepared against that day to avenge themselves on those hating them.

14 And the runners who rode upon relay animals - mules - went out, trembling, and urged on by the king's word; and the royal decree was given at Shushan, the palace.

15 And Mordecai went out from the face of the king in royal apparel of purple and white, and with a great crown of gold, and with a robe of fine linen and purple, and the city of Shushan rejoiced and was glad.

16 To the Jews was brightness, and gladness, and joy, and heavy honor.

17 And in each province by province, and in each city by city, wherever the king's word and his royal decree touched, the Jews had joy, and gladness, a feast, and a good day. And many of the people of the land became Jews, because the fear of the Jews fell upon them.

### CHAPTER 9

1 And in the twelfth new moon, that *is* the new moon, Adar, on its thirteenth day, that the king's word and his royal decree arrived to be done, in the day that those hating the Jews expected to rule over them, and it was turned about that the Jews had rule over them who hated them;

2 The Jews gathered themselves together in their cities throughout all the provinces of king Ahasuerus to send out their hand on those who sought evil *against them*; and no man could stand before their face because the fear of them fell upon all people.

3 And all the chief rulers of the provinces, and the provincial governors, and the governors of smaller districts, and those who did the work of the king, lifted the Jews, because the fear of Mordecai fell upon them.

4 Because Mordecai *was* great in the king's house, and his fame walked throughout all the provinces, because the man, Mordecai, walked on and *became* greater.

5 And the Jews struck all those hating them with the blow of the sword, and slaughter, and destruction, and did what they desired to those who hated them.

6 And in Shushan, the palace, the Jews fatally struck, and caused five hundred men to be lost.

7 And Parshandatha, and Dalphon, and Aspatha,

8 And Poratha, and Adalia, and Aridatha,

9 And Parmashta, and Arisai, and Aridai, and Vajezatha,

10 They fatally struck ten sons of Haman, the son of Hammedatha, the oppressor of the Jews, and they did not send out their hand on the spoil.

11 On that day the number of those who were struck fatally in Shushan, the palace, was brought before the face of the king.

12 And the king said to Esther, the queen, The Jews have fatally struck, and caused five hundred men in Shushan, the palace, to be lost, and the ten sons of Haman; what have they done in the rest of the king's provinces? And what is your request, and it shall be given you, or what *is* your petition further, and it shall be done?

13 And Esther said, If it is good to the king, let it be given to the Jews who *are* in Shushan tomorrow also to do according to today's royal decree, and let Haman's ten sons be hanged upon the timber.

14 And the king said it to be done so; and the royal decree was given at Shushan, and they hanged Haman's ten sons.

## ESTHER 9

*The Jews strike all those who hate them, and celebrate Purim*

15 And the Jews who *were* in Shushan gathered themselves together also on the fourteenth day of the new moon, Adar, and struck fatally three hundred men at Shushan; and on the spoil they did not send out their hand.

16 And the other Jews who *were* in the king's provinces gathered themselves together, and stood for their souls, and rested from those hating them, and fatally struck of those hating them seventy-five thousand, and they did not send out their hands on the spoil,

17 On the thirteenth day of the new moon, Adar, and on the fourteenth of the same they rested, and made it a day of feasting and gladness.

18 And the Jews who *were* at Shushan assembled together on the thirteenth and on the fourteenth; and they rested on the fifteenth, and made it a day of feasting and gladness.

19 Therefore the Jews of the villages who dwelt in the unwalled camps, made the fourteenth day of the new moon, Adar, gladness, and feasting, and a good day, and of sending portions, a man to his neighbor.

20 And Mordecai wrote these words, and sent writings to all the Jews who *were* in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, near and far,

21 To cause to rise among them that they were to do the fourteenth day of the new moon, Adar, and its fifteenth, each year by year,

22 As the days in which the Jews rested from those hating them, and the new moon which was

turned about to them from sorrow to joy, and from mourning into a good day, that they should make them days of feasting, and joy, and of sending portions, a man to his neighbor, and gifts to the poor.

23 And the Jews undertook to do what they had begun, and what Mordecai had written to them,

24 Because Haman, the son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the oppressor of all the Jews, had calculated against the Jews to cause them to be lost, and had let Pur<sup>24</sup> fall, that *is*, the lot, to consume them, and to cause them to be lost;

25 And when Esther came before the face of the king, he said by letters that his wicked device which he calculated against the Jews should return upon his own head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on the timber.

26 Therefore they called these days Purim after the name of Pur. Therefore for all the words of this letter, and of that which they had seen concerning this matter, and which had reached to them, See Note 9:24

27 The Jews caused to rise, and took upon them, and upon their seed, and upon all who joined themselves to them, and did not let it cross over, that they were to do these two days according to their

---

<sup>24</sup> **9:24 Pur** is a Persian word meaning lot. Purim is the plural of Pur, lots, and refers to Esther 3:7 where Haman, and his cohorts let lots fall for a number of days superstitiously determining the best day to set for the execution of all Jews in the world. They adopted the Persian word for their celebration to show that God can take the evil plans of those who hate us, and turn them about to our deliverance and enlargement. Rom 8:28.

writing, and according to their appointed time each year by year;

28 And these days are remembered, and done throughout each generation to generation, family by family, province by province, and city by city; and these days of Purim should not cross over from among the Jews, and the memorial of them should not be snatched away from their seed.

29 And Esther, the queen, the daughter of Abihail, and Mordecai, the Jew, wrote with all authority to cause to rise this second letter of Purim.

30 And he sent the writings to all the Jews, to the hundred and twenty-seven provinces of the kingdom of Ahasuerus, words of peace and truth,

31 To cause to rise these days of Purim in their appointed occasion, what Mordecai, the Jew, and Esther, the queen, had caused to rise upon them, and what they had caused to rise for themselves, and for their seed, the words of the fastings and their outcry.

32 And the edict of Esther caused these words of Purim to rise, and it was written in the book.

### **CHAPTER 10**

1 And King Ahasuerus put a tax of forced labor upon the earth, and upon the habitable lands in the sea.

2 And all the acts of his power, and of his might, and the declaration of the greatness of Mordecai, in which the king enlarged him, *are* they not written in the book of the words of the days

of the kings of Media and Persia?

3 Because Mordecai, the Jew, *was* second to King Ahasuerus, and great among the Jews, and accepted by the multitude of his brothers, treading to seek the good of his people, and speaking peace to all his seed.

**ESTHER**

836